

MANILA SOON TO FALL.

GEN. MERRITT PROBABLY HAS ARRIVED.

NEWS OF THE CAPITULATION OF THE CITY MOMENTARILY EXPECTED BY WASHINGTON OFFICIALS.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)
Washington, July 27.—General Merritt has reached Manila, according to the most conservative calculation of the War Department authorities, and the announcement is momentarily expected by cable from Hong Kong that he has assumed the military governorship of the Philippines, as directed by the President. He left San Francisco on the fast steamer Newport four weeks ago to-day, two days after the departure of the third military expedition, which he expected to pass on the way to Honolulu, and after reaching at that port he was to continue as rapidly as practicable to his ultimate destination.

The two expeditions which preceded him, that of General Anderson, leaving San Francisco on May 20, and of General Greene, which sailed eighteen days later, reached Manila after runs of thirty-six and thirty-two days respectively, including the time they spent in Hawaiian waters. General Anderson's fleet of transports was compelled to depart from the direct course to capture Guam in the Ladrone Islands, which involved several days' delay, and General Greene's brigade followed the chain of islands west of Hawaii, and spent the fourth of July at Wake Island, where it indulged in a flag-raising and in celebrating the National holiday. The fleet, however, was not handicapped by the necessity of settling her pace to that of the slower transports, but was to hurry with all possible dispatch, and confidence was displayed that she would make the voyage in from twenty-one to twenty-three days.

The Newport should therefore have anchored near Cavite by Sunday or Monday last, and the Governor selected by the President should already be in complete control.

THE CAPITULATION OF MANILA.

It is understood among the authorities at Washington that Admiral Dewey will not postpone his demand for the capitulation of Manila after General Merritt's arrival for a longer period than that official desires, and from the confident tone of the Admiral's recent dispatches no anxiety is felt regarding the prompt compliance of the Spaniards with whatever demand he may make. It is the impression that General Augustin, the Spanish Governor-General, has already found means of conveying assurances to Admiral Dewey of his readiness to surrender the moment the American forces are prepared to receive the city. Up to a short time ago, before the arrival of General Greene's forces, Admiral Dewey and General Anderson were reluctant to assume the responsibility of protecting all interests in Manila from the disturbing element represented by the insurgents, but upon the arrival of General Merritt, clothed by the President with supreme authority ashore, and with a force exceeding six thousand well-armed and effectively equipped soldiers, there will be no further hesitation.

The authority given to General Merritt in his instructions from the President precludes the possibility of any recognition of the pretensions of dictatorship proclaimed by the insurgent chief Aguinaldo, and it is not likely that this aggressive young man or his forces will receive any greater consideration from General Merritt when Manila surrenders than these of Garcia had from General Shafter at Santiago. In fact, there are the best of reasons for believing that the President's order of July 13, fixing the line of conduct of the commanding officer of the United States forces in Santiago, to be observed during the military occupation of that province, were almost identical with those given to General Merritt. This order, unprecedented in American history, provides, among other things, that citizens are entitled to security in their persons and property and in all their private rights and relations, and that the municipal laws, such as affect private rights and provide for the punishment of crimes, are to be continued in force and administered by the ordinary tribunals substantially as they were before the occupation, if the judges and other officials accept the supremacy of the United States. It was made the duty of the commander of the army of occupation, whose control is supreme under the President, "to announce and proclaim in the most public manner that the Americans have come not to make war upon the inhabitants nor upon any party or faction among them, but to protect them in their homes, in their employments and in their personal and religious rights," and it is stipulated under all circumstances that such local systems as are continued in operation shall remain under the supervision of the American commander-in-chief.

SEVERED FROM SPANISH RULE.

The problem of the disposition of the Spanish prisoners who will be thrown on General Merritt's hands when Manila surrenders has not yet received much consideration at the War Department, it being deemed advisable to have the benefit of General Merritt's recommendations before any actual steps are taken. If it appears to be advisable to send the men back to Spain, as in the case of those who surrendered at Santiago, no difficulty is apprehended in securing any amount of transportation in neutral vessels now in Asiatic waters. This question promises to assume considerable magnitude if peace negotiations proceed with any rapidity, for it is considered certain that the United States, after having destroyed Spanish sovereignty in the chief island of the Philippines, will not be ready to undertake the re-establishment of the overthrown authority there.

It is recognized that the insurgents could never again be compelled to respect Spanish rule, and this fact would probably prove an insuperable obstacle to the inclusion in a treaty of peace of the very terms which will probably be most strenuously insisted upon by Spain looking to the restoration of her Asiatic possessions. It is therefore thought to be beyond question that the complete separation of the Philippines from Spanish sovereignty will be one of the inevitable consequences of the war.

TROOPS TO SAIL THIS WEEK.

San Francisco, July 27.—General Merritt has issued an order designating the officers and troops to go out on the transport St. Paul, to sail on Friday for Manila. Lieutenant-Colonel Stever, of the 1st South Dakota, will be in command of the troops. In supplement to this order General Merritt designates five officers who are to go on the St. Paul to Honolulu. They are Colonel Barber, of the 1st New-York; Major Langitt, of the 2d Regiment, Volunteer Engineers; First Lieutenant Winthrop, quartermaster of the 1st New-York; First Lieutenant Griffith, assistant surgeon of the 1st New-York; and Captain Lydie, commissary of subsistence. Captain J. G. Blaine is also to sail on the St. Paul.

The steamships Lahine and North Fork will

sail on Saturday for Honolulu with 130 men of the 1st New-York Volunteer Regiment, who will garrison the island. The New-York Volunteers are making plans for accommodations. Colonel Barber, who will precede the regiment to make preparations for its reception, will carry plans for the barracks to be built at Honolulu. These plans are the work of Corporal Sussdorf, of Company B, and have been drawn since the arrival of the regiment here.

First Lieutenant J. K. Polk, adjutant of the Tennessee regiment, has been assigned to General King's staff, and will be adjutant of the Second Brigade in place of Captain James G. Blaine, who goes to Manila on the St. Paul.

Troop A of the Utah Cavalry and the Nevada troops will leave the Presidio on August 5, the former for the Yosemite and the latter for Sequoia Park.

PRINCE HENRY AND THE IRENE.

Berlin, July 27.—A dispatch from Shanghai to-day says an official statement from Prince Henry of Prussia in regard to the Irene incident at Sube Bay, Philippine Islands, has been published in the "Post-Asiatische Lloyd."

It says that the Irene went to Sube Bay to take off some Spanish women and children who were in distress. At Sube Grande the German warship happened to meet a steamer belonging to the insurgents, which left without any difficulty arising. On returning, the Irene met outside Manila Bay two United States cruisers, which did not speak her.

In conclusion, the statement sets forth that the removal of the women and children was "effected from motives of humanity, and with a strict observance of the rules of neutrality."

JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES.

Yokohama, Japan, July 27.—Discussing the Philippine question, the Japanese press generally favors the retention of the islands by the United States. There would be no objection to their transfer to Great Britain.

Japan's interests, however, forbid their passing into the hands of Germany or of any other Continental Power.

In any event, the Japanese press regards the scheme of an insurgent republic in the Philippines as entirely unworkable.

PROVINCES ON WAR FOOTING.

SPANISH TROOPS PREPARED TO MEET CARLIST RISING—WHOLE ARMY BEING STRENGTHENED.

London, July 28.—A dispatch to "The Daily Mail" from Biarritz, France, says:

"The Basque provinces, Navarre and the mountain districts of Aragon and Catalonia, the reported strongholds of Carlism, are now on a war footing, and a military occupation of all that country is nearly complete. In many places the troops are camping out, because the villages do not afford sufficient accommodation. More troops, including artillery, are being sent to complete measures for meeting the Carlism rising, if attempted. The whole Spanish army is being strengthened by two companies for each battalion.

"The Government believes that the Carlismists have more strength than they really possess, and will attempt nothing yet. Still, the situation is that the Carlismists are making ready to profit by the first signs of popular effervescence in an effort to foment revolution. The Government is prepared to check them immediately."

CARLISTS READY TO ACT.

London, July 28.—The Paris correspondent of "The Daily Mail" reports an interview with one of the chief supporters of Don Carlos, whom he found "brimming over with confidence." He said that Don Carlos would issue a proclamation to the moment Spain was committed to a demand for peace.

"All the North of Spain is eager and ready," said he. "We lack neither men nor arms. Don Carlos will be proclaimed in Catalonia and the Basque Provinces without the necessity of striking a blow. Then will come the time for war."

"The present dynasty counts for nothing, although Marshal Campos and General Polavieja will carry with them a considerable part of the army. The only General on the side of the present Government is Polavieja, but he will be unable to resist the current of popular opinion. Even the Republicans are on our side, for, although Don Carlos will be King and absolute, he will give the provinces what they most desire, namely, provincial councils; so they will have full liberty to manage their own affairs."

"Don Carlos will suppress corruption and restore good morals all around."

"General Xexier hesitates, and moves between Carlism and Republicanism. The Republicans, of course, have an underlying motive. They believe that amid the general trouble their own party may have a chance of coming to the surface, but the country is not prepared for that."

SITUATION AT GIBRALTAR.

London, July 28.—The Gibraltar correspondent of "The Daily News" says:

"A curious exchange of civilities has passed between Great Britain and Spain. The Spanish Consul here, under instructions from Madrid, called on Sir Robert Biddiph, Governor and Commander-in-Chief at Gibraltar, expressed concern lest the Americans should find facilities at Gibraltar. The Governor replied that the Spanish Government might rest quite easy; for, if Commodore Watson came, the authorities would act strictly according to the Queen's proclamation, copies of which, he said, had just been distributed to all the chief officials of the garrison."

"Spain for the last fortnight has been making extensive preparations in the Bay of Gibraltar. Twenty guns have just been shipped to Ceuta and forty have been mounted around the bay. There are 11,000 men at Algeiras, and 1,000 engineers are daily working at the batteries and fortified trenches behind the cemetery of Linea, a mile north of the British lines."

"A couple of guns have been dragged up behind the Queen of Spain's Chair, commanding the north front of these works. Even if intended for the Americans, they might become not a danger but an eventual annoyance to Gibraltar, and, at any rate, they are an infringement of the treaty cession, stipulating that no guns should be placed within range of the rock. Sir Robert Biddiph is reporting the matter to the home Government, and strong representations are being made at Madrid. As a result all the works there have been discontinued."

"A high Spanish military authority at Algeiras informs me that Great Britain, having objected to fortifications on the Spanish side of Gibraltar Bay, has refused to return that the Americans will conduct no military operations whatsoever in this, so to speak, neutralized district."

"Guns were landed yesterday at Algeiras, but not mounted, and the presence of the British representatives. The half-finished earthworks are deemed to speedy decay. Spain, while complying with British representations, has been privately that the Treaty of Utrecht had been broken by the English that it had become obsolete."

CHAUTAUQUA EXCURSION.

170.00 round trip by Erie Railroad, July 29. Tickets good until Aug. 25.—Adv.

FEVER CASES AT SANTIAGO.

TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOUR REPORTED SEVENTEEN DEATHS.

Washington, July 27.—The War Department this evening received the following dispatch from General Shafter:

Santiago de Cuba, July 27, 1898. Adjutant-General of the Army, Washington. Reports of yesterday show total sick, 3,770; total fever cases, 2,924; new cases of fever, 630; cases of fever returned, 235.

Death list for yesterday: First Lieutenant A. J. Babcock, 334 Michigan typhoid fever; Silas, Private James A. Marine, Company H, 334 Michigan, yellow fever; William Dillard, Company C, 234 Michigan, yellow fever; William Francis Poore, Company D, 1st District of Columbia Volunteers, typhoid fever; T. H. Mahoney, Company D, 4th Infantry, typhoid fever; General Charles E. Wangle, Company E, 24th Infantry, yellow fever; Captain Teaster, E. G. Cuba, yellow fever; and Moore Stuart, yellow fever. All at Silas, Privates Albert Hergund, Company G, 10th Infantry, pernicious malarial fever, and Charles Clemmens, Company H, 24th Infantry, malarial remittent fever, both with recurrences.

Deaths not previously reported: Privates Brodley, Company 15, 1st Infantry, dysentery, July 17; G. T. McLenahan, Troop A, 24 Cavalry, yellow fever, July 29; W. E. Hamill, Troop A, 24 Cavalry, yellow fever, July 29; Andrew Johnson, Troop E, 24 Cavalry, yellow fever, July 29; Walter Wachman, Troop F, 24 Cavalry, yellow fever; Harvey Atkins, Company I, 24 Massachusetts, malarial, July 25; colored soldier, name unknown, July 21, at detention hospital. S. SHAFER, Major-General.

CAIMANERA TROOPS SURRENDER.

Guantanamo Bay, Province of Santiago de Cuba, July 26 (delayed in transmission). Colonel Ewers returned to Santiago last night after receiving the surrender of the Spanish troops at Caimanera. He was accompanied by Mr. Brooks, the British Consul, and officers from Caimanera. Colonel Ewers will probably return here after consulting with General Shafter. Caimanera was found to be strongly defended, and rifle-pits and earthworks completely surrounded the village.

Only the smokestack of the S. val, the Spanish gunboat sunk at that place, is visible above the water, and it is improbable that she can be raised.

The Spanish troops at Caimanera are a ragged and hungry lot. Ensign Pratt, who had charge of the launch from the Marblehead which took Colonel Ewers to Caimanera, says that the Spaniards asked for permission to fire off their field-pieces—muzzle-loading guns—because they could not unload them.

The Marblehead went up toward Caimanera this morning for the purpose of raising the mines there.

The work of coaling, provisioning and cleaning the ships is proceeding, and will be completed in a few days.

SHIPS NOT TURNED AWAY.

Washington, July 27.—The War Department today made public the following dispatch to General Shafter in response to a query by the Department as to ships being turned away from Santiago:

Santiago, via Havre, July 26, 1:17 a. m. Adjutant-General United States Army, Washington.

Press reports not true. I only know of three ships having arrived, one from Kingston, the others from the United States. The Bratton has sold its cargo, another, a ship from New Orleans, has sold only a part of it, and captain tells me he is going away to-night. I think he will sell before he leaves. The trouble is they did not expect to pay any duty, and arrived here without money. The Spanish customs, as applied to Spanish subjects, have only been collected and the 20 cents per ton, as ordered by the Secretary. I discovered this morning an attempt on the part of the municipal authorities to collect a local tax of 40 cents per hundred kilos, in this instance amounting to \$2,500. I had already settled this matter by ordering its non-collection. The fact is, there is no money here to do business, and merchants are very timid about making purchases, fearing the effect of the Red Cross supplies, which are really feeding the town. The New Orleans man, for instance, brought twenty-nine head of cattle, which he sold at \$87 a head, the person buying kills one a day, selling the meat at 70 cents a pound. Of course, only a few people buy. The first week we were here people were starved, and I think a few now are dying from the effects of starvation. I am positive, however, that the customs have been honestly administered. S. SHAFER, Major-General.

A CAPTURED FLAG IN WASHINGTON.

Washington, July 27.—The second captured battle flag was required at the War Department today, with a brief note from General Shafter as follows:

"Fragments of Spanish flag captured by the 13th United States Infantry at San Juan, July 1."

MORE PRAISE FOR SANTIAGO TROOPS.

Washington, July 27.—Inspector-General Breckinridge, who had been a member of General Shafter's staff, called at the White House this afternoon, and personally described to the President the conditions existing there when he left, July 29. He spoke particularly of the remarkable enthusiasm displayed by the United States troops, and of their cool, brave conduct under fire. He also minimized the yellow fever conditions, and said the troops had been fully prepared in advance for its appearance.

SAGASTA DENIES PEACE REPORT.

Madrid, July 27.—The Spanish Government officials deny the report that they have been occupied with the question of peace between Spain and the United States, and Señor Sagasta, the Premier, contradicts the statement that official peace negotiations are in progress. But the Foreign Office announces that negotiations "due to private initiative" are proceeding.

RISE ON THE SPANISH BOURSE.

Madrid, July 27.—The big rise in prices on the Bourse here to-day is looked upon as denoting great confidence that peace between Spain and the United States will be concluded immediately.

PEACE PLEA CAUSES NO SURPRISE.

Madrid, July 27.—The news that the Government is going for peace has caused neither surprise nor sensation here. The attitude of a majority of the newspapers shows that the country will welcome peace if it can avoid the payment of an indemnity and the loss of the Philippines, where, it is now taken for granted, the United States will retain a coaling station only.

A FEW CARLIST, REPUBLICAN AND INDEPENDENT PAPERS PROTEST THAT AMERICA'S DEMANDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE.

The King's illness has evoked a universal display of sympathy for the Court, which, at the present critical moment, may not be without effect on the nation's future.

SUPPLIES FOR MASSACHUSETTS MEN.

Boston, July 27.—The Norwegian fruit steamer Alfred Dunlop, which was selected to carry a large quantity of medicine and supplies from the Volunteer Aid Association for the Massachusetts men at Santiago and Guantanamo, started to-day on her voyage to Port Antonio, Jamaica. The shipment consists of a large amount of about forty-five tons, and consists of the articles most needed by the soldiers at the front.

CATCH THE SHADOW OF THE SUBSTANCE FIDES.

Catch the shadow of the substance fides. Be photographed at Rockwood's, Broadway & 5th St.—Adv.

INVASION OF PORTO RICO.

AMERICANS ADVANCE IN THE DIRECTION OF YAUCO.

SPANISH REPORT SAYS THE ENGAGEMENT RESULTED IN INVADERS.

WITHDRAWING TO THE COAST.

London, July 27.—The Madrid correspondent of "The Daily Mail" says:

"An official dispatch from Porto Rico says: 'On Tuesday the Americans advanced in the direction of Yauco, fighting most of the way. Seven hundred Spanish regulars and volunteers encountered them, and an engagement ensued, which lasted the whole night, and only ceased with dawn on the following day.'

"The Americans were obliged to withdraw to the coast."

General Miles' official report, dated Tuesday, July 26, and sent from St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, at 9:35 p. m., contained no reference to fighting at or near Guanica, the landing-place of the army of invasion.

TROOPS CONCENTRATE AT SAN JUAN.

St. Thomas, D. W. I., July 27.—The Spanish troops in Porto Rico are being withdrawn from the outlying towns and are concentrating upon San Juan.

The defenses of the capital are being strengthened.

PORTO RICO CABLE MESSAGES.

The Central Cable Office of the Western Union Telegraph Company has been advised by the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company, owners of the cables to Porto Rico, to decline to accept business for all stations in Porto Rico except San Juan.

HIGGINSON REPORTS THE LANDING.

Washington, July 27.—The Navy Department today posted the following dispatch from Captain Higginson, in command of the naval expedition which went to Porto Rico with General Miles:

St. Thomas, July 26, 1898. Secretary of Navy, Washington.

Arrived here with General Miles and the United States troops to-day at 9:15 a. m. Land of them safely. There are no batteries outside. The Gloucester entered the harbor, landed company of soldiers under command of Lieutenant Harry H. Wood, United States Navy, and Lieutenant Wood. Disembarked small company of Spanish soldiers. Hoisted flag. Commanded Lieutenant Commander Richard Wainwright, and officers for gallantry capturing Guanica. Transports discharged without any opposition, assisted by boats of Massachusetts.

I have telegraphed Admiral Sampson.

HIGGINSON.

Port Guanica, Porto Rico, July 25, 1898.

GENERAL MILES' PLANS APPROVED.

Washington, July 27.—The War Department has reconciled itself to the summary change in its plans made by General Miles when he landed at Guanica instead of on the northeast coast of Porto Rico, as previously agreed upon. It is surmised that he was led to make this change by reason of the detention of his lighters, and forewent a week's delay in effecting a landing unless he went in where he did and ran his troops and artillery directly ashore. He thus has avoided exposing his troops to the hardships suffered by Shafter's men as they lay for so many days off Santiago. It is also suggested that the General has secured an important diplomatic advantage in setting foot upon Porto Rican soil before the first overtures have been received from Spain looking toward peace.

NO ABATEMENT IN THE CAMPAIGN.

Washington, July 27.—The departure of General Brooke and General Hains from Hampton Roads, which is expected to-morrow, to reinforce General Miles in Porto Rico, is a substantial evidence of the purpose of the Government not to abate the prosecution of military operations at this stage of the negotiations. The two generals are embarked on rapid liners, and should reach General Miles by next Monday, putting him in possession of a sufficient force to begin the movement upon San Juan at once.

LEAVING NEWPORT NEWS.

NEARLY ALL THE TROOPS ABOARD LAST NIGHT—THE START TO-DAY.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

Newport News, Va., July 27.—Nearly all of General Hains' brigade, the Second of the First Division, First Army Corps, embarked on the transports in waiting to-night, and to-morrow the entire expedition, under command of Major-General Brooke, will start for Porto Rico. There is still a large quantity of sulphur to go aboard the Seneca and the Roumanian, which will be put on in the early hours of the morning. Some of the troops will go aboard the St. Louis and the St. Paul in the morning also.

As predicted last night, the 3d Illinois Infantry embarked on the St. Louis, the 4th Ohio on the St. Paul; the 4th Pennsylvania on the City of Washington and the Seneca; the New-York cavalry and one troop of Philadelphia cavalry on the Massachusetts, and the four batteries of artillery on the Roumanian.

The Massachusetts also carries the hospital, ambulance and signal corps, and the corps headquarters men and guard. The camp equipment, baggage and supplies for each regiment of infantry are aboard the same ship, and the same is true of the artillery and cavalry, with their guns, horses, camp equipment, supplies and baggage.

General Brooke said this evening that he expected to reach Porto Rico by Tuesday at the latest, with good weather. It is believed now that the St. Louis and the St. Paul will accompany the four transports, and not dash ahead in order to reach the island in advance of them. The City of Washington, the Massachusetts, the Roumanian and the Seneca are all good for sixteen knots at least.

Newport News to-day has seen every possible side of war except an actual battle. A busier day the city has never experienced, and the Army has had everything its way. Officers and men have been bustling to get the men aboard. All of the infantry companies have been taking turns for the past three days loading transports with subsistence, and every effort was exerted to carry out General Brooke's orders. At 9 o'clock this morning he dispatched orders to the officers in charge of the work of loading the ships, impressing upon them the necessity of having their effects in shape to receive the men by sundown. If this were not possible, General Brooke demanded a reason for it.

BUSY SCENES AT CAMP HAINS.

The scene at Camp Hains this morning was a busy one. Word was received as early as 6 o'clock that the camp would be deserted before night, and every regimental, battalion and company commander was on the move, making preparations to strike tents. The first

Continued on second page.

WAR NEWS OF TO-DAY.

Spain's peace proposal, made through the French Ambassador, was the absorbing topic of discussion in Washington. President McKinley will acknowledge the overtures in a formal note, in which he will outline in a general way the conditions under which negotiations can be begun. This note will be ready in two or three days.

A Madrid dispatch to a London paper says that the American invaders of Porto Rico advanced in the direction of Yauco, fighting all the way, after fighting all night the Americans withdrew to the coast.

The Spanish forces in Porto Rico are concentrating at San Juan, and are preparing for a vigorous defense in case the Americans attack that city.

PEACE TALK IN PARIS.

FIRST PROPOSAL SENT DIRECT TO M. CAMBON FROM MADRID.

Paris, July 27.—The Government of France has notified to all the French embassies of the fact that Spain has made proposals, through M. Cambon, the French Ambassador at Washington, for peace with the United States.

The following official note was issued here to-day:

"At the request of the Spanish Government, the French Ambassador at Washington has been authorized by the French Government to present a note from the Cabinet at Madrid to the President of the United States. It is in the name of Spain that M. Cambon, who is charged to watch Spanish interests in the United States, made this communication to President McKinley at the White House yesterday afternoon, in the presence of Secretary Day."

The United States Ambassador, General Horace Porter, and the Secretary of the United States Embassy, Mr. Vignaud, say the Embassy has not received any information regarding the peace negotiations initiated at Washington. They add that the announcement saying they would be conducted here is premature.

The French officials assert that the first peace proposal was sent direct from Madrid to M. Cambon, the French Ambassador at Washington, in his capacity as representative of Spanish interests in the United States. M. Cambon thereupon called to the Government here, requesting instructions for his guidance in the matter, and received authority to open the peace negotiations.

The French Government is ignorant of the peace conditions which Spain is ready to offer. "The 'Temps' this evening says President McKinley gave M. Cambon a reply which the latter has transmitted to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Delcasse."

The 'Temps' also outlines the preliminaries to Spain's requests. It says the Cabinet, ten days ago, concluded to inquire how to terminate the war which, henceforth, in the opinion of the Ministers, will be purposeless. They realized that the United States was sensitive of its dignity, and that foreign intervention would only irritate, and requested M. Delcasse, through M. Cambon, to ascertain if the United States would consent to France tendering her good offices. On M. Cambon responding in the affirmative, Spain's note was immediately entrusted to him.

Commenting on the situation the 'Temps' says: "It should now be urged on the Spanish Cabinet, in the interests of Spain, that there is an irreducible minimum of concession, below which it would be chimerical to hope to reduce the American demands. One thing is certain, Spain must put on mourning for the Pearl of the Antilles, and signs are not wanting that Porto Rico will be held as an indemnity. The question of the Philippines will be more easily settled by diplomacy."

INTEREST IN SPAIN'S MESSAGE.

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS LEARN THE DETAILS OF THE PEACE PROPOSAL.

Washington, July 27.—In diplomatic quarters Spain's peace proposal, made through the French Ambassador, is the absorbing topic, and the answer of the President is awaited with keen interest. The diplomats showed their interest early to-day by calling at the State Department and at the French Embassy to learn with more exactness the details of Spain's proposal. This developed several features of the proposition which had not been entirely clear before. In the first place, no foreign government, outside of France, had been consulted by Spain in this overture for peace, and the present movement is not shared, directly or indirectly, by Germany, Austria, Italy, Russia or Great Britain.

It can now be stated, however, that the formal proposition submitted yesterday has been under consideration at Madrid for five days previous to yesterday, during which time the British as well as the French authorities were cognizant of the fact that Spain was about to sue for peace. This being settled, it appears that a good-natured but keen rivalry sprang up between Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff, the British Ambassador at Madrid, and M. Patenotre, the French Ambassador there, as to which Government should have the honor of initiating the movement designed to restore the peace of the world. Owing to the cordiality existing between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, it was felt at first that Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff would be commissioned to approach the United States, acting at Washington through Sir Julian Pauncefote. But Spain appears to have preferred the intermediation of the French Government, and as a result the negotiations were entrusted to the French Ambassador at Washington.

"TERMS" NOT MENTIONED BY SPAIN.

Another essential point is the exact proposition made by Spain. There has been some misapprehension over this, owing to the publication of the alleged text of the proposition and other reports asserting that Spain asked President McKinley to state terms of peace. As a matter of fact, the Spanish proposition does not mention the word terms, and there is no request or suggestion in it that the President shall state terms of peace. The distinct inquiry made by Spain is as to whether the United States will open negotiations toward the settlement of the war and the arrangement of peace.

It is based on the theory that if the President answers in the affirmative then the negotiations for terms will be opened between commissioners or parties clothed with the responsibility of bringing about a settlement.

Neither does the Spanish proposition contain any reference to "armistice."

At the same time it is framed on the idea that if peace negotiations are entered upon there will be a suspension of hostilities pending an agreement upon the exact terms of peace. In this connection there appears to be a distinction made between the word "armistice" and "suspension of hostilities," for, while it is said the former is not asked or expected, it seems to be taken for granted that a suspension of hostilities will be essential to carrying forward the peace negotiations.

The "Royal Limited" Five Hour Train to Washington, via Baltimore and Ohio R. R., leaves South Ferry, New York, at 10:30 a. m., and foot of Liberty St. 1 p. m. daily, except Sunday.—Adv.

FORMAL REPLY TO SPAIN.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY PREPARING A NOTE.

OPINIONS OF PROMINENT LEGISLATORS AS TO THE COURSE THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PURSUE.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

Washington, July 27.—President McKinley has decided to supplement the verbal assurances given Ambassador Cambon yesterday, of his willingness to discuss terms of peace, with a formal note acknowledging the overtures made from Madrid, and outlining in a general way the conditions under which negotiations can be seriously begun.

In the opinion of Judge Day, the Secretary of State, this note will not be completed for at least two or three days; nor is it certain that it will reach Madrid until some time next week. For, however tentative his suggestions may be held to be, great difficulties will naturally be encountered even in outlining the terms of peace which this country is at present prepared to enforce upon Spain.

It is plain to every one that the war has already far outrun the scope and purposes set for it in the beginning, and its extension not only to Porto Rico, but to the far eastern colonies of Spain, has raised problems to be settled in any negotiations for peace practically never dreamed of when hostilities were declared. As has been said before in these dispatches, the Administration will consent to no discussion of terms which is not based on the complete abandonment of Spanish sovereignty in the West Indies. Nor, in the present state of opinion in Congress and throughout the country can the United States abandon its just claim, if not to occupy and possess the Philippines, at least to exercise a controlling voice in shaping the future destiny of that important island group.

But so indefinitely framed, is American policy in the Philippines at this moment that it would be puzzling to lay down any other condition in the preliminary discussion of terms of peace than that the United States shall eventually determine their political future and have a guiding hand in the system of government by which they are hereafter to